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Quebec, Conception at Three Rivers, Saint Joseph at Ihonatiria among the Hurons—this latter being the mother house of five or six other missions spread throughout Upper Canada between Lakes Huron and Erie. Fourteen priests, besides their assistants, were distributed in this manner from the mouth of the St. Lawrence to the eastern shores of Lake Huron.

It was not without a sort of spite that the Algonquins of the Ottawa noticed the arrival of Brebeuf in the Huron country, for they were jealous of the facilities the Frenchmen would impart to the Hurons in the way of traffic if they were allowed to have close intercourse. The mind of the Algonquins, as well as that of the Hurons and the Iroquois, never realized in those days the purpose of the missionaries: they naturally saw nothing but trade and commerce in the doings of all classes of Europeans. Hence from the moment the Jesuits took permanent residence in the Huron country the Iroquois determined upon a war to the death against these people, because they felt that the French were becoming the masters of the fur-trade around the lakes. Brebeuf says that in 1635, the Iroquois having alarmed some Huron villages, a rumor circulated that the Algonquins had warned the Hurons of the sad result of the coming of the black gowns amongst them. They had not foreseen the nature of the trouble which they predicted. Soon after, the Iroquois having shown some desire to attack Allumette Island, the Algonquins ran to the Hurons for assistance. By that time the Iroquois had made up their minds to destroy both nations and they entered (1636) openly upon the execution of that plan. Father Brebeuf and his missionaries in the Huron country had no means to detect the danger nor to repulse it. They wrote in full belief that the omens were most favorable. It is painful to us when reading those enthusiastic letters to think that the enterprise of the missions was on the verge of the most terrible tragedy destined to take place in the annals of this new continent.

In brief the little headway made from 1632 to 1639 may be considered as marking a period of prosperity if compared with the years that followed.

BENJAMIN SULTE.

*Old Virginia and her Neighbors.* By JOHN FISKE. (Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Co. 1897. Two vols., pp. xxi, 318; xvi, 421.)

WE are told in the preface of this interesting work that in the series of books on American history upon which the author has for many years been engaged, the present volumes come between *The Discovery of America* and *The Beginnings of New England*. To complete the picture of the early times and to make connection with *The American Revolution* and *The Critical Period of American History* (two charming works of Dr. Fiske with which the public is familiar), the author promises two further contributions, of which one, entitled *The Dutch and Quaker Colonies in America*, is already in preparation, and the other, yet unnamed, but which will resume the history of New England at the accession of

William and Mary, will follow as soon as possible. Thus the design of the author is to afford in the end a connected story of the thirteen English American communities up to the time when they became permanently united as the United States of America, under the Constitution framed at Philadelphia in 1787.

The plan of the present work is to group under one treatment the colonies formerly comprised within the territory of South Virginia. As a mother standing among her children, the original commonwealth, Old Virginia, receives from the author the largest share of attention, but he takes care not to neglect the younger commonwealths (her "Neighbors") Maryland, North Carolina and South Carolina, which were taken from her at different times. Beginning with an account of the spirit of commercial adventure which led to the settlement at Jamestown, the author sweeps before the reader's eye the ever-widening wave of cause and effect, which, proceeding from the landing of the settlers on the fateful fourteenth day of May, 1607, rolled ever onward, west, north and south, up the James, the York, and the Rappahannock, over Maryland, Carolina, and Georgia, till in the fullness of time the widening circles swept over the Appalachian ranges, to traverse the broad valley of the Mississippi.

Dr. Fiske deserves the highest praise for this work. There is present in these charming volumes such a profusion of knowledge, such a pervading spirit of fairness, such a flowing stream of sympathy, that it is only just to say of the talented author that he appears in the grand, unfolding panorama of men and events as a master of narrative power.

What is more charming than his opening chapter? How the heart leaps out in salutation to those glorious "kings of the sea," Sir John Hawkins, Sir Francis Drake, Sir Humphrey Gilbert and Sir Walter Raleigh. There they stand on the very threshold of the Virginia colony, glorious sponsors for the future of her history—a history destined in the swift rolling years to compass the story of a republic of continental grandeur.

The vicissitudes of the colony at Jamestown receive a graphic treatment from Dr. Fiske, who stands stoutly up for the celebrated John Smith and the gentle Pocahontas. The objections urged by some who in recent days have sought to throw discredit on the most romantic incident in American history—the famous rescue at Werowocomoco—are denounced for their utter "flimsiness." Dr. Fiske has a theory of his own in reference to the matter, but it appears to me that resting as the story does on direct evidence, no added reasons are necessary to vindicate its truth. All that the objectors adduce or can adduce against the incident is in the nature of circumstantial evidence, which in the absence of an opportunity for cross-examination amounts to very little in either a court of law or a court of history.

The chapters on Claiborne's contest with Lord Baltimore, and on Nathaniel Bacon's war with Sir William Berkeley, are splendid examples of a faithful adherence to facts, expressed with the highest literary finish.

Where so much excellence prevails, it almost seems an ungracious task to point out errors. A few changes in the text, however, might be advantageously made.

Of the danger of generalizing from conditions which in their nature can be but partially stated, Dr. Fiske appears perfectly aware. In fact he repeatedly warns us against the sin so generally committed of "sweeping assertions." But does he not sometimes seem to forget to act up to his own standard of precaution? For instance, when he states that from an educational standpoint there was an "undeniable contrast" between New England and Virginia, is he not repeating a claim not borne out by modern investigations? Did in fact any such contrast exist? Could a sorrier picture of ignorance be found than that painted by William Root Bliss, from the town records of colonial Massachusetts? From the work accredited by Mr. Bliss to the town clerks in New England, their spelling was not even up to the vague standard of that age, when the dictionary was a more or less useless article. Unquestionably, we must largely discount the Baroness de Riedesel's statement that "only one in ten" of the men of Massachusetts, about the time of the Revolution, could write. Nor ought we to take too seriously the declaration of John Adams made in Congress about the same time, that the fishermen of New England were as "degraded as slaves." These statements, however, and others like them which may be cited, contain, perhaps, just enough truth to make us chary of accepting Dr. Fiske's estimate of the existence of any real "contrast."

After a like manner, a pretty just objection might be made to Dr. Fiske's habit of referring to Virginia as an "aristocracy" and to New England as a "democracy." The fact is that the formal aristocracy of Virginia was conditioned on so many democratic features, and the formal democracy of New England was so essentially aristocratic, that society in the two sections afforded no grounds for the contrast suggested by the use of the terms. For if in New England all the officers except the magistrates were elected, it must be remembered that the forms of elections, the limited extent of the franchise, and the narrow and illiberal spirit of the voters, prevented any real popular control. The truth is that from the beginning caste was in high favor in New England. It must be said that the statutes of Virginia afford no order like that of the general court of Massachusetts in 1651, which expressly pointed out the distinction between "the better class," those "above the ordinary degree," and those of "mean condition." It may be true that the office-holders of Virginia were confessedly life officers. Yet their powers were always subject to the will of the House of Burgesses, in which the people ruled supreme, the oft-stated freehold restriction on voting being until 1736 totally undefined and inoperative.

As time went on two things emphasized the spirit of democracy in Virginia. The first was the isolated lives led by the inhabitants, and the second was the growth of slavery of the negro race. Isolation promoted self-confidence and self-reliance, and negro slavery made race and not

class the real distinction in society. I have myself noticed how quickly the servant who had no handle to his name is addressed in the county records, after serving his apprenticeship and becoming a freeman, with the title of "Mr.," a term of high respect in those days. Mr. Bliss on the contrary declares that the great majority of the people of New England were addressed by the homely title of "goodman." The Southern critic might desire that the elements of undesirable population imported into Virginia had not been so great, but Dr. Fiske shows that these people had very little real authority in shaping the destinies of the colonies. After all, the vicious emigration to which the Northern states have been subjected during the present century has long since equalized the accounts between the sections, so far as this feature is concerned.

The account which Dr. Fiske gives on page 198 of Volume II., of the laws regarding slaves, might also be desirably modified. Many of the harsher statutes mentioned by him as applying to the whole colonial period had in fact either a late enactment, temporary application, or partial enforcement. To say that murder of a slave was not punishable is unquestionably an error. The offence was punishable like any other murder, though the law declared that it was not murder if a slave accidentally died from correction, or was killed while resisting his master. In the *Virginia Gazette*, as early as 1737, is an account of the hanging of a wicked master who cruelly beat his slave to death.

A word, too, may be uttered in favor of Dr. John Pott, who acted as one of the early governors of Virginia. In mentioning the fact that Dr. Pott was convicted of stealing cattle, the seriousness of the charge undoubtedly required the additional statement that the Privy Council in England, on a review of the case, declared that the Doctor had been unjustly treated. As he is also charged by Dr. Fiske with being of a convivial turn, it is but right to say that Dr. Neill, on whom Dr. Fiske relies, was mistaken in his reference, since the original authority, George Sandys, clearly alluded to young Christopher Calthorpe and not to Dr. Pott.

Again in saying that Maryland had no newspapers until 1745, Dr. Fiske departs from his customary accuracy, since Willam Parks began the *Maryland Gazette* at Annapolis as early as 1727.

There will doubtless be a great demand for Dr. Fiske's volumes, and I feel quite sure from the painstaking disposition of the author that he will rest very easy under criticism and be most happy to remedy as far as possible all defects in future editions of his work. There can be no hesitation in saying that the appearance of these volumes constitutes an epoch in the history of the literature appertaining to Virginia.

LYON GARDINER TYLER.

[Just as these pages are going through the press we receive the following communication from Mr. Lewis L. Kropf, the Hungarian scholar, on the question of Captain Smith's veracity.]

I fully agree with Professor Fiske that it is highly important to know whether any of Captain Smith's narratives are truthful or not. The con-

trovery on this point has now lasted three centuries, as he says, and will to my mind last many centuries longer, so long in fact as "historians of a later age" will continue to consult their own convenience and not take the trouble to look for materials of evidence in the proper quarter. To settle the point I have ransacked Hungarian sources and at the beginning of 1890 contributed a short series of articles to the London *Notes and Queries* (7th Ser., Vol. IX.) in which I adduced more than ample evidence to prove that Captain Smith's exploits in Hungary, Transylvania, Wallachia and Moldavia as related by himself in the *True Travels and Adventures* are a worthless pseudo-historical romance, and that the bogus grant of arms to Smith by the Prince of Transylvania is a clumsy piece of forgery that could not possibly mislead any one possessing more than a superficial knowledge of Hungarian history. I communicated the verbatim text of this precious document to the Hungarian Heraldical Society about the same time, and it was read at one of their meetings and received with peals of derisive laughter by the historians present. There never was and never will be any controversy in Hungary about the veracity of Captain Smith. The text of the document alone was sufficient to brand him as an impudent forger.

The articles in *Notes and Queries* have unfortunately escaped the notice of Captain Smith's latest biographer, in the English *Dictionary of National Biography*, and therefore it is not to be wondered at that they have remained unknown to Professor Fiske in far Massachusetts. Consequently, as I said, ink will continue to flow and "the smoke of the conflict" will continue "to hover about the field." Had Professor Fiske read my contribution to the controversy he would have penned Chapter III. of his *Old Virginia and her Neighbors* in a totally different frame of mind, no doubt, and inevitably come to the conclusion that "the staggering blow between the eyes" of which he writes was the one that gravelled the Virginian Ananias and not the "flippant critics" who laugh at his rodomontades.

LEWIS L. KROPP.

LONDON, 16 May, 1898.

*Colonial Mobile.* By PETER J. HAMILTON, A.M. (Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Co. 1897. Pp. xxii, 446.)

THE vast region, draining from the Tennessee watershed to the Gulf, and here first characterized as the Alabama-Tombigbee Basin, rich in natural features and historic interest, finds in this volume an exhaustive and appreciative presentation of its history. While the work is called *Colonial Mobile*, it concerns not alone the town of that name, but the settlement and expansion of population in the whole basin, while under the rule of foreign powers, and during the early years of American control. The period covered, 1519-1821, is divided into six parts, with an appendix of documents and collateral matter. Within these three centuries come the discovery and exploration by the Spanish, 1519-1670; the set-